report by PAC to the Parliament, Action Taken Note will be finalized by Ministry of Railways as per recommendations of the Committee.

Route network of Railways in Andhra Pradesh

85. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the route network of railways in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the present position thereof;

(c) what steps Government have taken to lay new route networks especially in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years; and

(d) what are the new additional routes to come during the current year in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The rail route kilometres in Andhra Pradesh as on 31.03.2006 (latest available) is 5185 kilometres consisting of 4856 Broad Gauge and 329 Metre Gauge route.

(c) and (d) During last 3 years, Manoharabad-Kotipalli (148.9 Kilometres), Jaggayapet—Mallacheruvu (19.1 Kilometres), Vishnupuram—Janapahar (11 Kilometres) and Obulavaripalle—Krishnapatnam (113 Kilometres) new line projects, falling fully/partly in the State of Andhra Pradesh, have been taken up and rayadurg-Tumkur (213 Kilometres) new line project has been included in the Budget 2007-08. Rs. 200 crore was allocated for ongoing new line projects in Andhra Pradesh during last 3 years.

During last 3 years, Kakinada-Kotipalli (44 Kilometres) and Karimnagar-Jagtiyal (48 Kilometres) new lines have been completed and Nandyal-S. Uppalapadu (42 Kilometres) segment of Nandyal—Yerraguntla (126 Kilometres) is targeted for completion during the current year.

Increasing steel prices

86. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steel prices are rising and are not reachable to the common man;

(b) if so, the prices of steel during the last 3 years, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for such increase;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the producers pass the increase in prices to consumers saying that they have no control over the rise in input prices; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Steel prices in the retail market have moved up by 2.6 to 12.4% during the three-year period from October 2004 to October 2007. However, to address the need of common man, Ministry of Steel has taken conscious effort in improving the distribution system of steel items of common use, by expanding the dealer network of the Public sector Steel Companies. As on date, Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has 1287 dealers covering 602 districts in the country while Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) has appointed 131 district level dealers to cater to the requirements of small consumers.

(b) Month-wise retail price data for Mumbai retail market during the last three years, on selected steel items is given in the enclosed Statement *(See* below*)*.